

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00660 161226Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-10 ACDA-05 /074 W

----- 054844

R 161000Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6220

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MT

SUBJ: ALL QUIET ON THE MALTESE POLITICAL FRONT--FOR NOW

REF: VALLETTA 0639

1. WEEKEND POLITICAL MEETINGS IN MALTA PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT, REFLECTING AT LEAST TEMPORARY SUCCESS FOR THE MINTOFF-BORG OLIVIER AGREEMENT (REPORTED REFTEL) TO COOL THE STEADILY-RISING VIOLENCE.

2. BOTH LABOR AND NATIONALIST SPEAKERS AT THEIR RESPECTIVE JUNE 15 MEETINGS CONDEMNED PAST DISTURBANCES, BUT PREDICTABLY BLAMED THEIR OPPONENTS FOR STARTING ALL THE TROUBLE. BOTH PARTIES CALLED ON THE OTHER TO RESTRAIN THEIR PARTISANS IN THE FUTURE.

3. COMMENT: AT LEAST FOR THE INTERIM, THE TWO PARTIES SEEM TO HAVE THEIR BULLY BOYS CALMED DOWN. BUT GIVEN THE BITTERNESS OF MALTESE POLITICS, IT IS QUESTIONABLE HOW LONG THIS QUIET STATE OF AFFAIRS WILL LAST.

OPINION HERE IS THAT A MAJOR FACTOR CAUSING MINTOFF TO CALL OFF THE LABOR AGITATORS (WHO

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PAGE 02 VALLET 00660 161226Z

WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR A MAJOR SHARE OF THE

RECENT INCIDENTS) WAS HIS CONCERN OVER ADVERSE
EFFECTS ON MALTA'S CRUCIAL SUMMERY TOURIST TRADE
IF THE FOREIGN PRESS BEGAN TO PLAY UP THE STORY.WIGGINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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